

Jews whose racial composition has remained essentially unchanged since ancient times—these still inhabit their original homes in the Near East (Babylon, Persia, and the inland regions of Syria and Asia Minor), and are described as *Oriental* Jews. The second type consists of Jews in whom the Mediterranean component has been strengthened by intermixture with Arabs and South-Europeans. Foremost among them are the Jews who settled in Spain in the Mohammedan period and who subsequently, under the Christian rulers, adopted the Spanish language. Spain is called in Hebrew "Sephard", and these Jews are therefore called *Sephardic*. The third principal type is composed of the Jews in whom, during their migrations from Palestine or Babylon to the Balkans and Eastern Europe, the Alpine component was strengthened by intermixture with the Near Eastern and Slav races. Moreover, especially in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, these have received a small infusion of Nordic blood. Their main representatives are the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe, who, since the Middle Ages, have spoken German or Yiddish, which is derived from German. They are called *Ashkenazic* Jews (in Hebrew, Ashkenazi means German).

Differences in the rates of their natural increase have changed the relative strength of these three principal groups

in the Diaspora. The Oriental Jews, who till the twelfth century formed the greater part of Jewry, since then have not increased in number, but rather diminished, and form to-day only 2-3 per cent of Jewry. Similarly the Sephardic Jews, who until the fifteenth century numerically exceeded the Ashkenazim, became stationary, or have even declined, and at present form only 5 per cent of Jewry. On the other hand, the Ashkenazic Jews have increased enormously, and number at present nearly 15 millions, forming 92 per cent of world-Jewry.

The following are a few small sects which have separated from the main body of Jewry in historic times, but have